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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) (12 Feb 70) FOR OT UT 694089

20 February 1970

SUBJECT. Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 268th Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1969 (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 4b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.
2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

1 Incl  
as

*Kenneth G. Wickham*  
KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General  
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268th Aviation Battalion

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 268TH AVIATION BATTALION (COMBAT)  
APO San Francisco 96316

AVBACB-EC

9 November 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for  
Period ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Section 1. Operations: Significant Activities.

a. (U) General: This report covers the period 1 August 1969 through 31 October 1969, and is submitted in accordance with AR 525-15 and USARV Regulation 525-15. During the reporting period the 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) continued to provide support to the Free World Military Assistance Forces in the II Corps Tactical Zone. This support was primarily provided in Pleiku, Binh Dinh, Phu Bon, and Phu Yen Provinces.

b. (C) Replacements: In general, replacements during the last quarter have slightly decreased and have been arriving steadily before the rotation of the individuals they are to replace. This has occurred in all MOS groups except for the 05, 11, 67, 68, 71, 72, 76, and 94 series MOS's, in which the Battalion is short. The Battalion received a total of 154 replacements in August, 126 in September, and 136 in October. As of 31 October 1969 there were 343 assigned Officer personnel, (129 Officer and 214 warrant Officer) compared to an authorized (TO&E) of 362 (143 Officer and 239 warrant Officer). Enlisted strengths maintained the assigned strength of 1496, compared to an authorized strength of 1515. The Battalion is 98% overall filled with a breakdown as follows: 90% Officers, 99% warrant Officers, and 99% enlisted men.

c. (U) Personnel:

(1) The following change took place within the Battalion:

Commanding Officer - 28 Aug 69: Ullrich Hermann, LTC, 257-60-1266, IN

Vice: Garry H. Farmer, LTC, 518-38-7078, IN

(2) The following company changes of command occurred:

61st AC (AH) - 11 Oct 69: Maj Emmett F. Johnson, 419-44-0283, SC

FOR OT UT  
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Inclosure

1

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Period ending 31 October 1969, RGS CSFUR-65 (RI) (U)

Vice: Maj Maurice G. Hillard, 410-56-1045, IN

134th AC (AH) - 11 Oct 69: Maj William W. Hensley, 403-38-9393, FA

Vice: Maj Charles E. Teeter, 483-48-3884, FA

196th AC (ASH) - 18 Sep 69: Maj Harold D. Zumbro, 441-38-0367, FA

Vice: Maj Ralph R. Stone, 251-44-8517, TC

d. (C) Unit strength attached as Inclosure 1.

e. (C) Civilian strength is attached as Inclosure 2.

f. (C) Intelligence: Activity remained at a fairly low level throughout the area of operation during the earlier portion of the reporting period with a moderate increase toward the end. In the Phu Yen Province there were no new units reported and enemy disposition remained unchanged. Small isolated ground attacks comprised the majority of enemy initiated activity which resulted in negligible casualties and damage. It is expected that the enemy will continue its harassing tactics with small size units while placing major emphasis on the disruption of the pacification effort, propaganda activities, and rice collection; all of which have been reported as being of the highest priority to the units in Phu Yen Province. There has been emphasis placed on NVA units throughout II Corps to undergo sapper training and assume local force designators. Reports of movement of regimental-sized forces into Binh Dinh Province from I Corps could indicate a period of increased enemy activity in the near future.

(1) Units of Battalion have received hostile mortar fire two times during the reporting period as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No &amp; Type of Rnds</u>	<u>Damage</u>	<u>Casualty</u>
Phu Heip	11 Aug	48 Rnds 82MM	1 Bldg	3 WIA's
An Khe	31 Oct	5 Rnds 122MM	Neg	Neg

(2) Aircraft of this Battalion have received hostile fire thirty-eight (38) times; and hits thirty-three (33) times. (See Inclosure 3)

(3) The 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) has been credited with one hundred and seventy three (173) KBA as follows:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>No. KBA</u>
61st AC (AH)	4

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<u>Unit</u>	<u>NO. KBA</u>
129th AC (AH)	39
134th AC (AH)	34
238th AC (AW)	96

g. (C) Operations:

(1) Units of the Battalion engaged in combat operations each of the ninety two (92) days covered by this reporting period. Two major combat airmobile assaults were conducted by this Battalion during this reporting period as indicated below:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Supported Unit</u>	<u>A/C Employed</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Cargo Hauled (Tons)</u>	<u>Trps</u>
18 Sep 69	WHICD	46	572	84.0	1776
2 Oct 69	CRID	73	1489	245.0	3948

(2) Operational Plan 11-69 is attached as Inclosure 4 for the operation conducted on 18 September 1969.

(3) Operational Plan 12-69 is attached as Inclosure 5 for the operation conducted on 2 October 1969.

(4) The Capitol ROK Infantry Division (CRID), 173rd Airborne Brigade, and the 22nd ARVN Division continued to be the major units supported by the 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat). The White Horse ROK Infantry Division has received substantial support from the Battalion and the 4th Infantry Division has received CH-47's, CH-54's, and UH-1 guns on an almost daily basis. Numerous other support requirements were fulfilled on a mission basis.

(5) Operational results appear as Inclosure 6.

f. (C) Training:

(1) During this period 100% of the personnel assigned to this Battalion received training on the new changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. This training was 100% completed on 2 October 1969.

(2) A team from the PACAF Jungle Survival School visited all units of this Battalion between 31 August 1969 and 7 September 1969 and gave classes on two separate nights at each location.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 208th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for  
Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (MI) (U)

(3) All units published weekly training schedules and conducted mandatory training as required, with emphasis on aviation crew member standardization and safety. Training was integrated with operational requirements to the maximum degree possible.

(4) Instructor pilots conducted 90 day standardization flights as required. The Battalion Standardization Officer held monthly meetings for all SIP's and IP's of all assigned units covering all aspects of standardization and aviation safety. The following is a list of IP's made during this reporting period by unit:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>NEW IP's</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>NEW IP's</u>
61st AC (AH)	4	196th AC (ASH)	2
129th AC (AH)	1	238th AC (AW)	0
134th AC (AH)	3	355th AC (HH)	2
130th AC (ASH)	3		

(5) During this reporting period the following school quotas were filled.

<u>School</u>	<u>QUOTAS FILLED</u>
Armament Officer	5
Armament E.M.	3
Escape & Evasion	3
Tech Supply	8
CH-47 Maintenance Supervisor	4
Tech Inspector	9
UH-1 Instructor Pilot	1
AH-1G Airframe	4
UH-1D/H Airframe	5
CH-47 Airframe	5

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for  
Period Ending 31 October 1969, RGS CSFOR-65 (RI) (J)

<u>School</u> (Cont'd)	<u>Quotas Filled</u>
T-53-L-11 Engine	4
T-53-L-13 Engine	3
T-55-L-11 Engine	5
T-55-L-7 Engine	4

h. (U) Logistics:

(1) The following are existing equipment shortages within the 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat):

- (a) M-16 Rifles
- (b) Wreckers
- (c) Fire Fighting Equipment Set
- (d) Leather Boots
- (e) Jungle Fatigues
- (f) NOMEX Flight Suits and Gloves
- (g) Tool Kit 2nd Echelon
- (h) Survival Radio Sets
- (i) Truck, Fork Lift
- (j) Cable, Telephone

(2) Aircraft status appears as Inclosure 7.

(3) Aircraft availability appears as Inclosure 8.

i. (C) Organization: See Inclosure 9.

j. (U) Civil Affairs:

(1) This Battalion has conducted weekly MEDCAP's in the village of La Ba, and the Battalion Flight Surgeon treats an average of ten (10) Vietnamese people each day in the Battalion dispensary.

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(2) On 19 October 1969, the Sand Pebble Special Services Club hosted a party for seventy (70) children from the Buddhist Orphanage located in Tuy Hoa. The Battalion furnished transportation for all the children to and from the party.

(3) During the reporting period, the Battalion built a road to the village of La Ba for greater access by the inhabitants of the village.

k. (U) Chaplain:

(1) The 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) Chaplain during the reporting period conducted a total of thirty-three (33) weekday services, thirty-one (31) Sunday Protestant Religious services and three (3) Memorial services with a total attendance of 1135.

(2) Religious services were held at Phu Heip Army Airfield, MACV Team #28 in Tuy Hoa, 48th Avn Co (AH) at Ninh Hoa, 6/32 Artillery at Phu Heip, North Field in Tuy Hoa, Lane Army Airfield at An Son and LSA 593-2 at Phu Heip.

(3) Reorganization of the Phu Heip AAF Chapel Choir was accomplished during this reporting period.

(4) The 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) Chaplain attended the 17th Aviation Group (Combat) Chaplain's Conference and the Protestant Day of Recollection held at Nha Trang on 25 August 1969.

(5) The Chaplain acquired the assistance of a pianist for the Phu Heip AAF Chapel.

(6) The Battalion Chaplain made forty-one (41) visits to units located at Ninh Hoa, Tuy Hoa, An Khe, and Phu Heip. He spent 308 hours in individual counseling.

(7) Character Guidance classes held during this reporting period had a total attendance of 1141 in 14 classes.

(8) The Phu Heip Army Airfield Memorial Chapel has donated \$355.75 to the Evangelical Mission School, Tuy Hoa, through its protestant offerings. Through its Catholic offerings the Chapel donated \$200.12 to Mang Lang Orphanage, Tuy Hoa, and \$79.73 to Loc Tien Orphanage, Tuy Hoa.

l. (U) Safety:

(1) The following is a summary of accident statistics during the reporting period:

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 262nd Aviation Battalion (Combat) for  
Period Ending 31 October 1969. CSFOR-65 (MI) (U)

- (a) Major Accidents 7
- (b) Minor Accidents 0
- (c) Incidents 13
- (d) Forced Landings 6
- (e) Precautionary Landings 13
- (f) Fatalities 9

(2) Cumulative aircraft accident rate per 100,000 flying hours for the reporting period was 21.8.

m. (U) Surgeon

(1) On 26 October 1969, CPT Edward A. Glenn, 500-36-2894, became the acting Battalion Flight Surgeon when CPT Michael C. Huntington DEROSed.

(2) CPT Edward A. Glenn, 500-36-2894, is Commander of the 433rd Med Det.

(3) CPT James Konrad, 219-38-3667, is Commander of the 193rd Med Det.

(4) CPT Allan K. Katz, 084-34-0448, is Commander of the 546th Med Det.

2. (C) Section 2. Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations, and Recommendations

a. (C) Personnel:

(1) Enlisted personnel with 05C and 72B MOS's.

(a) Observation: There is a critical shortage of personnel in these MOS's arriving in Vietnam.

(b) Evaluation: Some individuals arriving with these MOS's are being used in different slots in order to comply with a directive concerning the utilization of college graduates.

(c) Recommendation: That a policy be adopted whereby critical MOS personnel be utilized in their MOS rather than used in the college graduate program.

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Period ending 31 October 1969, CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

(d) Command Action: N/A

(2) Motor Sergeant, SGT E-5:

(a) Observation: The present TO&E authorizes a SGT E-5 for motor sergeant for CH-47 units.

(b) Evaluation: CH-47 units have 32 motor vehicles and 17 trailers to maintain by TO&E strength. There are very few qualified, experienced motor sergeants in the grade of E-5. Those who are experienced normally have time in grade for E-6 and seek units in which the TO&E will permit advancement.

(c) Recommendation: Recommend action be taken to have CH-47 units TO&E modified to upgrade the motor sergeant position to Sergeant E-6.

(d) Command Action: Suggesting unit is currently preparing a consolidated recommendation to change this TO&E position.

(3) Technical Inspectors:

(a) Observation: During the past 90 days there has been a steady decline in the number of school trained technical inspectors assigned to units within this Battalion.

(b) Evaluation: Due to the shortages in this critical MOS, it has become necessary to initiate an on-the-job training program. In addition quotas have been requested and received for the Technical Inspectors course at AARTS, Vung Tau. This still isn't sufficient for the number of technical inspectors required in this Battalion.

(c) Recommendation: That first consideration be given this Battalion for assignment of Technical Inspectors.

(d) Command Action: An on-the-job training program has been initiated throughout this Battalion and all AARTS quotas for the Technical Inspectors course are being filled.

b. Intelligence: none

c. (C) Operations:

(1) Utilization of CH-47 Aircraft:

(a) Observation: Quite frequently CH-47 aircraft are assigned missions moving cargo and troops from one secure area to another secure area.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for  
Period Ending 31 October 1969 RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

(b) (b) Evaluation: In many instances vehicles could be used for movements from "Secure to Secure" releasing the CH-47 for other missions resulting in more cargo and troops moved at less expense.

(c) Recommendation: That vehicles be utilized when possible for cargo movement between two secure areas.

(d) Command Action: N/A

d. Organization: N/A

e. (C) Training:

(1) Personnel extending in RVN are not trained in the slots they are extending for.

(a) Observation: Personnel extending their tours in RVN for door gunner slots do not have training in the operation of the M-23 system.

(b) Evaluation: Door gunners must have sufficient training in the operation and care of the M-23 system to effectively employ the system and to insure the system is operational at all times.

(c) Recommendation: That personnel extending for door gunner positions be required to have the proper training in M-60 machine guns prior to being assigned as door gunners.

(d) Command Action: Unit submitting this request is currently training on the employment and care of the M-23 system.

(2) Instrument Training:

(a) Observation: Aviators are arriving in Vietnam with expired Tactical and Standard Instrument Tickets.

(b) Evaluation: Although this Battalion's flying is conducted under VFR conditions there are occasions where aircraft inadvertently go IFR and aviators must have the ability and training necessary to handle this situation. There are instances where our aircraft are sent on TAC-E missions in, at best, marginal weather. Considering the monsoon season, characterized by low ceilings and heavy rain showers, and the terrain in II Corps, the increased need of an instrument program is apparent.

(c) Recommendation: That an instrument program be set up in Vietnam enabling aviators to renew instrument tickets.

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Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

(d) Command Action: This unit is presently participating in a program to renew expired Tactical Instrument Tickets and Standard Instrument Tickets.

f. Logistics:

(1) Wreckers for CH-47 units:

(a) Observation: TO&E 1-258G as modified by MTO&E deleted a long boom wrecker line #X60696 and added a short boom wrecker line #X63229 for all CH-47 companies.

(b) Evaluation: The present authorized wrecker will not extend its boom to the sufficient length required to remove and replace aft rotor heads, blades, vertical shafts, and transmissions due to the height of the helicopter which is approximately 18 feet high.

(c) Recommendation: That line #X63229 be replaced by a long boom wrecker line #X60606.

(d) Command Action: A recommendation to make this change to present MTO&E is being processed.

(2) Insufficient Electrical Power:

(a) Observations: Numerous power failures are experienced throughout Phu Heip Army Airfield.

(b) Evaluation: PA&E is unable to furnish sufficient power to maintain adequate operation of all facilities requiring electrical power, causing high break down of electrical equipment particularly teletype machinery. There are no provisions or equipment available for back-up power sources.

(c) Recommendations: That additional generators be made available to PA&E, these generators would provide the additional power needed and serve as back-up equipment where power failures occur.

(d) Command Action: This problem has been discussed with PA&E along with a representative from USACAV Engines Section. Action has been taken to replace faulty wiring by sections for more efficient distribution and minimize line loss.

(3) Logistical Support to Phu Heip:

(a) Observation: The TUDET Headquarters and its units which

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for  
Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

furnished logistical support to units at Phu Heip began to relocate in June 1969. This relocation caused a decrease in available support to units remaining at Phu Heip. The support most affected was in Class II, IV, and IX. Class I dropped to minimal support.

(b) Evaluation: A forward support area detachment replaced the TUDET Detachment which consisted of a Direct Support Company, a Supply and Service Company, and several allied support elements. These reduced elements are unable to furnish the same type and amount of support as that which had previously been received in this area.

(c) Recommendation: Qui Nhon Support upgrade these elements thru increases in personnel and stockage so support can be reestablished for this area.

(d) Command Action: Assistance has been requested from higher headquarters.

(4) Aircraft Intensively Managed Items:

(a) Observation: CH-47 aircraft are being grounded a considerable amount of time because repair items are not readily available.

(b) Evaluation: Minor repair items such as pitch change links, generators, voltage regulators, and blade dampers are not available immediately when required and have to be requisitioned from the direct support unit at Qui Nhon. The situation faced by CH-47 units indicate a "mission accomplishment need" for "AIMI" items, not only for minor items but engines, blades, transmissions, and rotor heads as well. It has taken days for such items to reach the CH-47 units.

(c) Recommendation: Authorize units without co-located Direct Support units to stock the above items on a control basis of one each for major items, engines, rotor heads, etc., and as a minimum, 2 sets of minor items such as blade dampers, pitch change links, generators, etc.

(d) Command Action: At present the CH-47 units are cannibalizing from the aircraft in PMP to keep the flyable aircraft mission ready.

(5) Hydraulic Test Equipment:

(a) Observation: A lack of necessary equipment in the hydraulics shop to fabricate and test hydraulic lines exists in CH-47 units.

(b) Evaluation: The lack of hydraulic line test equipment requires the lines to be installed on the aircraft for testing. This increases

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for  
Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

down time. If the line checks out it remains installed, if not the process is repeated.

(c) Recommendation: That a 3000 psi and a 4000 psi hydraulic test stand be made available to CH-47 units.

(d) Command Action: Suggesting unit is currently preparing MTO&E change.

**g. Communications:**

**(1) Telephone Service:**

(a) Observation: Since 18 September 1969 the telephone service has been very poor at the Phu Heip Installation.

(b) Evaluation: The 188th Communications Squadron (USAF) has not accepted complete responsibility for the Phu Heip telephone service. The 261st Signal Company has relinquished their responsibility, consequently the Phu Heip Installation has no one to repair telephone service.

(c) Recommendation: That one unit be made responsible for the telephone system at the Phu Heip Installation.

(d) Command Action: Higher headquarters has been informed of this problem.

**h. Material: None**

**i. Other: None**

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AVBACB-EC

9 November 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for  
Period Ending 31 October 1969, RUS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

*Ulrich Hermann*  
ULRICH HERMANN  
LTC, IN  
Commanding

- 9 Incl  
~~1. Unit Strength~~  
~~2. Civilian Strength~~  
3. Hostile Fire  
~~4. OPLAN 11-69~~  
~~5. OPLAN 12-69~~  
6. Operational Results  
7. Aircraft Status  
8. Aircraft Availability  
~~9. Organization~~

Incls 1, 2, 4, 5 and 9 wd HQ, DA  
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AVBACB-SC (19 Nov 69) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned of 268th Aviation  
Battalion (Combat) for Period Ending 31 October 1969,  
MCS CSFOR-65 (RL) (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 17TH AVIATION GROUP (COMBAT), APO 96240 25 November 1969

TO: Department of the Army (ACSFOR, DA), Washington, D.C. 20310  
Commanding General, I Field Forces Vietnam, APO 96350

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the attached report, considers it to be adequate, and concurs with the contents as stated, except as indicated below.

2. (C) The following comments and recommendations are submitted:

a. Subject Heading: Report heading should be corrected to read; Operational Report Lessons Learned of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for Period Ending 31 October 1969, MCS CSFOR-65 (RL) (U).

b. Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities.

(1) Paragraph 1b, Page 1, replacements. Concur with the exception of 67 series MOS. Adequate personnel with the 67 series MOS are available (except for aircraft technical inspectors) to replace losses prior to departure.

(2) Paragraph 1g(1), Page 3, Operations.

(a) Unit combat operations presented in this paragraph should be in narrative form. Reference: 17th Aviation Group Message AVBACB-SC 4009-69, dated 14 Oct 69, Para 2d(2).

(b) Operational Plans 11-69 (Incl 4) and 12-69 (Incl 5) should be omitted per paragraph 2d(2) of the above message. The use of legal size paper is not appropriate.

(3) Paragraph 1f(a), Page 3, Training. Training paragraph should read 1h (C) Training. All subsequent paragraphs are improperly designated.

(4) Paragraph 1f, Page 3, Training. Training does not reflect the number of days engaged in training, ref Paragraph 5(b)(1)(c), USARV Regulation 525-15.

c. Section 2, Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations.

(1) Paragraph 2e(2)(c), Page 9, Training. Units are to

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AVRACB-SC

25 November 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned of 268th Aviation  
Battalion (Combat) for Period Ending 31 October 1969,  
RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

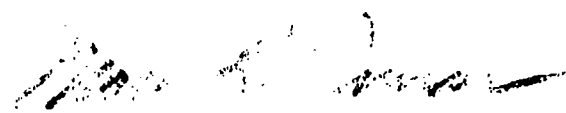
conduct instrument training programs at company and battalion level. The 17th Aviation Group conducts an instrument instructor pilot course on a monthly basis to train company and battalion instructor pilots in instrument flying procedures.

(2) Paragraph 2f(3), Page 10, Logistics. The 17th Avn Gp coordinated with the 19th S&S, 593rd General Support Group and the Qui Nhon Support Command to increase the supply support at Phu Hiep. The LSA Commander at Phu Hiep states that the Qui Nhon Support Command has plans to activate a self-service supply center and increase the LSA strength.

(3) Paragraph 2f(4), Page 11, Logistics. Non-concur. USARV Reg 710-1, Para 3 governs the authorized repair parts stockage.

(4) Paragraph 2g(1)(c), Page 12, Communications. The 21st Signal Group has also been advised of this problem and has directed the 41st Signal Bn to maintain the cable system at Phu Hiep until the responsibility for maintenance is resolved.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
MARC L. TURNER  
CPT, ADA  
Adjutant

CF:  
268th AB(C)

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AVFA-GC-HIST (9 Nov 69) 2d Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for  
Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350

TO: Commanding General, 1st Aviation Brigade, APO 96384

1. (U) This headquarters has evaluated subject ORLL and forwarding  
indorsement and concurs.

2. (U) Reference para 2g(1): Detailed information on the telephone  
communications problem at Phu Heip was forwarded to USARV on 7 Nov 69.  
As a result, the 1st Signal Brigade assumed the responsibility for  
telephone maintenance service until an agreement can be reached between  
AFCS and USARV. As of this date, service has been restored to all units  
at Phu Heip.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

FREDERICK E. HOLLAND  
1LT AGC  
AFCS AF

CF:

1 - CO, 17th Avn Gp (Cbt)  
1 - CO, 268th Avn Bn (Cbt)

AVIAGO-0 (9 Nov 69) 3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for  
Period Ending 31 October 1969 LOS 00FOR-65 (11) (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, APO 96384

18 DEC 1969

THRU: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, AFM: AVIAGO-0001,  
APO 96375  
Commander-in-Chief, United States Army Pacific, AFM: GPAP-01,  
APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the  
Army, Washington, D.C. 20310

1. This headquarters has reviewed subject report and concurs with the  
contents as indorsed except as noted below.

2. The following additional comments are considered pertinent:

a. Paragraph 1b, page 1, discusses replacements. An enlisted  
assigned strength of 99, and replacements arriving before the rotation  
of the individuals they are to replace is considered normal. Replacements  
received by the Brigade are allocated to groups for further assignment to  
battalions. As of 27 November 1969, the 17th Aviation Group (Combat)  
strength figures for MOS shortages listed by the 268th Aviation Battalion  
(Combat) were as follows:

<u>LOS</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AUTH</u>	<u>ASSIGNED</u>
05	RADIO CODE	116	75
11	INFANTRY/ARMOR	467	474
67	AIRCRAFT MAINT	2940	3126
68	AIRCRAFT COMPONENT REPAIR	458	451
71	ADMINISTRATION	519	421
72	COMM CENTER OPS	11	10
76	SUPPLY	462	328
94	FOOD SERVICE	256	183

HQ USARV is aware of these shortages and necessary action, to the extent  
feasible, is being taken to alleviate this situation.

b. Paragraph 2a(1), page 7, discusses utilization of personnel in  
LOS's 05C (Radio Teletype Operator) and 72B (Communication Center Special-  
ist) in positions other than their duty MOS. Directives concerning the  
utilization of college graduates are not intended to divert highly trained  
and skilled manpower resources to other positions merely because they are

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for  
Period Ending 31 October 1969, HQ 33AFB-4 (R1) (U)

college graduates. In interpreting Army policy concerning personnel management, commanders must be guided by the needs of the service and consider this criterion paramount in utilizing the personnel resources assigned to them. Paragraph 3, 2d Indorsement by HQ USAF dated 29 August 1968 to DA letter, subject: Guidance for Utilization of College Graduates, dated 29 July 1968 states: "Units to which these men are assigned are responsible for the assignment and utilization in the primary Military Occupational Speciality...."

c. Paragraph 2a(2), page 8, discusses upgrading motor sergeants from E5 to E6. Concur. A recent survey of this command's CMH results revealed that approximately 44% of the units inspected received unsatisfactory ratings in motor vehicle maintenance and vehicle maintenance management. Experience gained by the upgrading of the motor sergeant from SGT E5 to SSG E6 would measurably increase the readiness posture of this command.

d. Paragraph 2f(1), page 10, discusses the need for a long boom wrecker in CH-47 units. A letter request was submitted to HQ USAF by this headquarters on 9 December 1969 requesting equipment and personnel changes for CH-47 units. The recommendation for a long boom wrecker was included in this request.

e. Paragraph 2f(2), page 10, addresses insufficient electrical power at Phu Heip. A definite electrical problem exists at Phu Heip Army Airfield which is caused mainly by an excess of unauthorized equipment and electrical connections. The Installation Manager at Phu Heip stated that the 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) had approximately seventy unauthorized air-conditioners. The overall electrical system is producing a sufficient amount of electricity to power all the authorized equipment, but unauthorized equipment has produced overloaded conditions and the system fails frequently. The Installation Manager has submitted a request to USAFV to upgrade the interior and exterior wiring in the 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) area which will improve the situation considerably. The work request is priority two behind a wiring upgrade at Binh Hoa which is to be completed 31 December 1969. A DD Form 1391 is also being prepared to request a central power plant for the entire installation. The critical country-wide shortage of generators precludes their being issued for back-up power. If available, TOW generators should be used as back-up power for any equipment which must be operated during power outages.

f. Paragraph 2f(3), page 1, addresses logistical support problems at Phu Heip. Concur in principle if the requirement still exists. This

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for  
Period Ending 31 October 1969, CS GSFOR-69 (1) (U)

headquarters has informally contacted the 1st Logistical Command, ACGS for Supply who in turn contacted the Qui Nhon Support Con and who stated that the quality of support rendered may have decreased during reorganization of the support elements, but they have not received complaints concerning lack of support from the units in Phu Heip. Neither the headquarters nor the 17th Aviation Group (Combat) has received a request for assistance. The 1st Logistical Command is reviewing the overall support at Qui Nhon with the objective of improving customer service.

g. Paragraph 2f(4), page 11, discusses stock of Aircraft Intensively Managed Items (AII). Concur with the recommendation that aviation units without collocated direct support units be authorized to stock AII items, but on a very selective basis, with the quantity to be determined by availability and dollar cost. Headquarters, 1st Aviation Brigade is making a study of this subject.

h. Paragraph 2f(5), page 11 addresses a lack of equipment for fabrication test of hydraulic lines in CH-47 units. The testing of hydraulic lines with the use of a hydraulic test stand is unauthorized. TM 55-405-7, page 40, paragraph 18d, August 1966, subject: Army Aviator Maintenance Engineering Manual (Shop Practices), contains specific instructions and lists the equipment necessary for assembly of aircraft high pressure hoses; however, this headquarters concurs in the recommendation and command action taken. The hydraulic test stand is required at organizational level to apply normal system pressure (not live tests) on aircraft assemblies and subassemblies.

i. Paragraph 2g(1), page 12, discusses poor telephone service at Phu Heip. The 1884th Communications Squadron (USAF) installed the dial telephone exchange at Tuy Hoa and was to assume responsibility for telephone repair. The 1884th Communications Squadron has refused to accept this responsibility until the 261st Signal Company upgrades the existing cable system. On approximately 12 November 1969 the 261st Signal Company was directed to reassume telephone repair responsibility until further notice.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



ARTHUR W. LITTLE

CPT AGC

Asst AGC

Cy of 3d Ind Turn:  
OO 268th Avn Bn (Cbt)

AVHGC-DST (9 Nov 69) 4th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for  
Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOK-65 (R2) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,  
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 October 1969 from Headquarters, 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) and comments of indorsing headquarters.

2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "Enlisted Personnel with MOS 05C and 72B", page 7, paragraph 2a(1) and 3d Indorsement, paragraph 2b; concur with 3d Indorsement. College graduates should be utilized in their primary MOS.

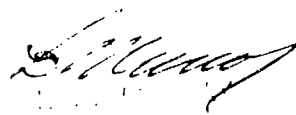
b. Reference item concerning "Technical Inspectors", page 8, paragraph 2a(3); Concur with the command action. A theater wide shortage of Aircraft Technical Inspectors exists. This item should be considered by Department of the Army.

c. Reference item concerning "Instrument Training", page 9, paragraph 2e(2) and 1st Indorsement, paragraph 2c( ): Concur with 1st Indorsement. USARV Regulation 95-25, 29 Aug 68, requires unit commanders to implement an aggressive and continuing instrument training program for all aviators under their command.

d. Reference item concerning "Aircraft Intensively Managed Items (AIMI)", page 11, paragraph 2f(4); 1st Indorsement, paragraph 2c(3), and 3d Indorsement, paragraph 2g: Concur with 1st Indorsement. Nonconcur with the recommendation and 3d Indorsement. AIMI items are not available in sufficient quantities for stockage at unit level. In order to insure that these critical items are available to fill NOKS requirements, the Aircraft Maintenance Management Center (AMMC) must have maximum visibility and control. AIMI stock is prepositioned at Direct Support Supply Activity (DSSA) level when adequate quantities are available. Procedures for requisitioning AIMI with a required delivery date (RDD) are contained in USARV Regulation 710-1.

e. Reference item concerning "Telephone Service", page 12, paragraph 2g(1); 1st Indorsement, paragraph 2c(4); 2d Indorsement, paragraph 2 and 3d Indorsement, paragraph 2; concur. Cable rehabilitation and survey is scheduled for completion on or about 15 Feb 70, at which time, the Air Force will assume responsibility for the cable system.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



Cy furn:  
268th CAB  
1st Avn Bde

GPOP-DT (9 Nov 69) 5th Ind (U)


SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat)  
for Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 27 JAN 1970

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the  
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

  
C. L. SHORTT  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG



**CONFIDENTIAL****HOSTILE FIRE**

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SHOT AT</u>	<u>HIT</u>	<u>DATE</u>
1. 134th AC (AH)	CQ 1632	1-10 Rds	1	011030 Aug
2. 134th AC (AH)	CQ 059528	1-10	0	021130 Aug
3. 180th AC (AH)	BN 030290	1-10	2	031500 Aug
4. 134th AC (AH)	CQ 055488	25+	6	101700 Aug
5. 129th AC (AH)	BR 707581	1-10	3	111435 Aug
6. 61st AC (AH)	BR 6488	1-10	1	111615 Aug
7. 180th AC (ASH)	CQ 246365	Mortar attack	3	112310 Aug
8. 134th AC (AH)	CQ 2335	1-10	1	120015 Aug
9. 61st AC (AH)	BS 864135	1-10	1	121535 Aug
10. 238th AC (AW)	BR 779442	25+	7	131005 Aug
11. 134th AC (AW)	CQ 098495	25+	1	150730 Aug
12. 134th AC (AW)	BR 989733	1-10	1	161030 Aug
13. 129th AC (AH)	BR 985735	25+	1	161400 Aug
14. 129th AC (AH)	BR 0861	25+	1	171700 Aug
15. 180th AC (ASH)	BR 6954	11-25	1	180730 Aug
16. 134th AC (AH)	BR 715457	25+	1	180830 Aug
17. 196th AC (ASH)	BR 951227	1-10	1	221435 Aug
18. 196th AC (ASH)	BR 951227	1-10	1	221615 Aug
19. 134th AC (AH)	CR 971729	1-10	1	251010 Aug
20. 196th AC (ASH)	BR 864165	Booby Trap	0	261045 Aug
21. 180th AC (ASH)	BQ 735633	1-10	1	291430 Aug
22. 180th AC (ASH)	BR 280280	1-10	1	051000 Sep
23. 134th AC (AH)	BQ 902748	25+	0	161030 Sep
24. 134th AC (AH)	BR 996708	11-25	7	190830 Sep

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10**

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## HOSTILE FIRE

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SHOT AT</u>	<u>HIT</u>	<u>DATE</u>
25. 180th AC (ASH)	BR 355295	1-10	2	241530 Sep
26. 134th AC (AH)	CR 004731	25+	1	281100 Sep
27. 61st AC (AH)	BS 743121	1-10	1	291100 Sep
28. 180th AC (ASH)	BQ 735633	1-10	1	291430 Sep
29. 134th AC (AH)	CQ 0053	11-25	0	291500 Sep
30. 129th AC (AH)	BQ 739556	1-10	1	151615 Oct
31. 355th AC (HH)	BQ 910824	1-10	2	161200 Oct
32. 61st AC (AH)	BQ 895725	1-10	2	200930 Oct
33. 129th AC (AH)	BR 641431	25+	10	271735 Oct
34. 129th AC (AH)	BR 641431	11-25	4	271745 Oct
35. 180th AC (ASH)	YU 576537	25+	2	301030 Oct
36. 134th AC (AH)	CQ 1329	25+	0	301045 Oct
37. 238th AC (AW)	BR 525473	25+	1	301305 Oct
38. 238th AC (AW)	BR 525473	25+	9	301305 Oct
39. 180th AC (ASH)	YU 580532	25+	2	301630 Oct

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## OPERATIONAL RESULTS

UNIT	SORTIES FLOWN	TRPS LIFTED	CARGO LIFTED (TONS)	ENEMY KBA		STRUCTURES DAM DES		SAMFANS DAM DES	
61st AC (AH)	31,661	41,303	674.0	4	21	28	1	1	
129th AC (AH)	28,135	44,563	1682.0	39	40	16	0	0	
134th AC (AH)	27,767	50,571	813.0	34	25	29	0	0	
238th AC (AW)	2,792	0	0.0	96	56	10	0	0	
180th AC (ASH)	10,713	36,442	11,888.8	0	0	0	0	0	
196th AC (ASH)	14,691	49,216	16,282.0	0	0	0	0	0	
355th AC (UH)	3,758	0	8,093.0	0	0	0	0	0	
	119,517	222,095	39,432.8	173	142	73	1	1	

## 2. Losses

UNIT	AIRCRAFT LOST		AIRCRAFT DAMAGED	
	TYPE	No	TYPE	No
61st AC (AH)	UH-1H	0	UH-1H	3
	UH-1R	0	UH-1R	1
129th AC (AH)	UH-1H	1	UH-1H	4
	UH-1R	1	UH-1R	5
134th AC (AH)	UH-1H	1	UH-1H	4
	UH-1C	2	UH-1C	1
238th AC (AW)	UH-1R	2	UH-1R	1
180th AC (ASH)	CH-47	1	CH-47	12
196th AC (ASH)	CH-47	0	CH-47	4
355th AC (UH)	CH-54	0	CH-54	0

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AIRCRAFT STATUS

UNIT	UH-1D/H Auth/OH	UH-1B/C Auth/OH	OH-6 Auth/OH	CH-47 Auth/OH	CH-54 Auth/OH
61st AC (AH)	23 19	8 7	-	-	-
129th AC (AH)	23 20	8 7	-	-	-
134th AC (AH)	23 20	8 7	-	-	-
238th AC (AV)	- 1	12 11	-	-	-
180th AC (ASH)	-	-	2 0	16 14	-
196th AC (ASH)	-	-	2 0	16 13	-
355th AC (HH)	-	-	-	-	9 10*
HHC	- 1	- 1	3 0	-	-
268th AB (C)	69 61	36 33	7 0	32 27	9 13

\* Four A/C are located in Oleiku, O'CON 52nd Avn Bn (Cht)

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UNIT		AIRCRAFT STATISTICS		
1st AC (AH) #A/C	#A/C	ACC	SEP	SEP
		18/7		
	%	78/80	15/5	18/7
129th AC (AH) #A/C	#A/C	19/8	72/71	72/4
	#Avail	15/6	19/7	78/64
	%	79/75	15/6	18/6
134th AC (AH) #A/C	#A/C	19/7	79/71	13/4
	#Avail	16/5	18/6	76/68
	%	84/11	15/4	19/7
238th AC (AW) #A/C	#A/C	1/10	83/67	16/5
	#Avail	1/7	1/10	83/78
	%	100/70	1/7	1/10
180th AC (ASH) #A/C	#A/C	14	100/70	1/7
	#Avail	9	14	100/70
	%	64	10	14
196th AC (ASH) #A/C	#A/C	15	71	10
	#Avail	9	14	65
	%	60	8	13
355th AC (HH) #A/C	#A/C	9	57	8
	#Avail	5	10	63
	%	56	6	10
			60	5
				59

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4

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CO, 268th Aviation Battalion

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